

Amendments to the Specification

Kindly insert the following paragraph on page 2, between lines 30 and 31:

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, the device linkage control apparatus according to the first invention is a device linkage control apparatus which identifies a frequency of associated use between devices among a plurality of devices, and controls, in linkage with each other, a set of devices having a high frequency for being used in association with each other, the apparatus including: a life data accumulation unit operable to accumulate life data indicating a usage history of the plurality of devices; an episode creation unit operable to create, from the life data, a plurality of episode data, based on episode data creation rules which determine devices that have been used in association with each other, said plurality of episode data having, as data, a plurality of the devices that have been used in association with each other; an episode analysis unit operable to create, from the plurality of episode data, a frequent pattern tree representing, as a tree structure, a frequency at which the respective device sets are used in association with each other; a life pattern interpretation unit operable to identify, according to the frequent pattern tree, a combination of device sets as life pattern information, said device sets having a high frequency for being used in association with each other; and a control unit operable to control, in linkage with each other, said device sets having a high frequency for being used in association with each other, wherein, with regard to subtrees having respective nodes of the frequent pattern tree as roots, the episode analysis unit constructs the frequent pattern tree with a structure in which element data having a highest frequency becomes a root of a subtree, the life pattern interpretation unit identifies, based on the frequent pattern tree, a device A and a device B, which have a high frequency for being used in association with each other, as a combination having a high association frequency, even when each of said device A and said device B are combined and used in association with various other devices, and the control unit controls, in linkage with each other, at least said device A and said device B.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~In order to achieve the aforementioned objective,~~ Here, as one embodiment of the present invention, the device linkage control apparatus according to the first invention is a device linkage control apparatus that controls a plurality of devices in linkage with each other, comprised of: a life data accumulation unit operable to generate life data by detecting usage of the devices in a user's daily life, and accumulate the generated life data, the life data indicating said usage, a life pattern information generation unit operable to i) identify two or more devices from among the plurality of devices based on the accumulated life data, and ii) generate life pattern information indicating the identified two or more devices, said two or more devices being used together or in conjunction with each other in the user's daily life, and a control unit operable to control the two or more devices indicated in the generated life pattern information, in linkage with each other.